

Natural Area NEWS



Spring 2004

No. 15

The Rights of Future Generations

A recent issue of *Conservation Biology*, December 2003, has several interesting, thought-provoking essays regarding “greening the Constitution”—giving rights to species and ecosystems, or rather giving rights to future generations to be able to inherit the natural legacy that has been passed on to us. Protecting the environment, and protecting the right of future generations to inherit and enjoy it, go hand-in-hand.

Here in Indiana, we are fortunate that we have that right. In 1967, the Indiana General Assembly passed the Nature Preserves Act. In an extremely eloquent fashion, the Nature Preserves Act spells out why this is important:

“As part of the continuing growth of the population and the development of the economy of the State of Indiana it is necessary and desirable that areas of unusual natural significance be set aside and preserved for the benefit of present and future generations before they have been destroyed; for once destroyed they cannot be wholly restored. Such areas are irreplaceable as laboratory for scientific research, as reservoirs of natural materials not all of the uses of which are now known as habitats for plant and animal species and biotic communities whose diversity enriches the meaning and enjoyment of human life, as living museums where people may observe dependence of all forms of life, and as reminders of the vital dependence of the health of the human community upon the health of the natural communities of which it is an inseparable part. It is essential to the people of the State of Indiana that they retain the opportunities to maintain close contact with such living communities and environmental systems of the earth and to benefit from the scientific, esthetic, cultural and spiritual values they possess. It is therefore the public policy of the State of Indiana that a registry of such areas be established and maintained by the department, that such areas be acquired and preserved by the state and that other agencies, organizations, and individuals, both public and private, be encouraged to set aside such areas for the common benefit of the people of present and future generations.”

Indiana now has 200 nature preserves! On November 18, 2003, the Natural Resources Commission dedicated the 216 acre Henry Kramer Woods Nature Preserve. Working with landowners and partners across the state, these preserves containing an array of Indiana’s natural heritage have been set aside for future generations. Let’s continue to devote our efforts to this noble cause!

Nature Preserves is a division of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources

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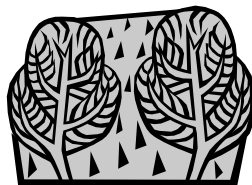
New Nature Preserves

Violet and Louis J. Calli Nature Preserve is a 179 acre property situated along the Muscatatuck River in Jennings County. This tract contains high-quality limestone cliffs, waterfalls, mesic and dry-mesic upland forests, the latter containing a large Eastern hemlock stand. Red-shouldered hawks and hooded warblers both nest at the site. The tract is owned and under the administration of the Jennings County Community Foundation. It was a gift by Dr. James Calli, Jr., and named in memory of his parents.

Fourteenmile Creek Nature Preserve is an 859 acre property located in Charlestown State Park, Clark County. This tract contains high-quality limestone cliffs, a range of dry upland to floodplain forests, and several rare plant species. The tract is owned by the Department of Natural Resources and is under the administration of the Division of State Parks and Reservoirs.

Base Line Barrens Nature Preserve is a 71.49 acre property located about 3 miles north of Fredericksburg in southern Washington County. This tract contains remnants of chert barrens, limestone barrens, and open oak woodland on a karst sinkhole plain. It is part of the largest remaining karst barrens in Indiana. As this entire site was barrens in presettlement times, management will include restoration activities to restore most of the wooded portions back to barrens. The tract is owned and under the administration of the IDNR Division of Nature Preserves.

Henry Kramer Woods Nature Preserve is a 215.8 acre property located approximately 5 miles southwest of Rockport in Spencer County. This tract consists of an old-growth southern hardwood bottomland forest situated on the floodplain of the Ohio River. Dominant tree species include Shumard's red oak, shellbark hickory, pin oak, sweet gum, swamp white oak and formerly American elm. This tract was originally part of the extensive Henry Kramer farmstead. Henry Kramer, arriving in this country from Prussia at the age of 7, was elected to the State Senate in 1878. In their 1969 book "Natural Areas in Indiana and their Preservation" Dr. Alton Lindsey, Father Damian Schmelz and Stanley Nichols rate Kramer Woods as one of the top 16 natural areas in the state deserving protection. The property was nominated and registered as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service in 1973. Kathryn and Helen Hougland, granddaughters of Henry Kramer, desired permanent protection for these woods, and upon her death in 1998, Helen bequeathed the property to The Nature Conservancy for protection as a memorial to her grandfather. The tract is now owned and under the administration of the IDNR Division of Nature Preserves.



Some Indiana Land Trusts:**Northern Indiana:**

ACRES Land Trust
2000 North Wells St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Trillium Land Trust
1717 East Lusher Ave.
Elkhart, IN 46516

LaPorte County
Conservation Trust
405 Maple Avenue
LaPorte, IN 46350

Glacial Ridge Historic Land
Trust
PO Box 627
New Paris, IN 46553-
0627

Shirley Heinze Land Trust
444 Barker Road
Michigan City, IN 46360

Wawasee Area Conservancy
Foundation
6938 East Waco Drive
Syracuse, IN 46567

Central Indiana:
Central Indiana Land Trust,
Incorporated
PO Box 509074
Indianapolis, IN 46250

Southern Indiana:
Sycamore Land Trust
PO Box 7801
Bloomington, IN
47407-7801

Buffalo Trace Land Trust
PO Box 2
Mt. St. Francis, IN 47146

Indiana Karst Conservancy
P.O. Box 2401
Indianapolis, IN 46206-
2401

Wabash Heritage Land Trust
PO Box 732
New Harmony, IN 47631-
0732

A Serious Threat....Emerald Ash Borer

A new exotic beetle from Asia was discovered feeding on ash (*Fraxinus* sp.) trees in southeastern Michigan. It was identified in July 2002 as *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire (Coleoptera: Buprestidae), the emerald ash borer. Larvae feed in the phloem and outer sapwood, producing galleries that eventually girdle and kill branches and entire trees. Evidence suggests that the emerald ash borer has been established in Michigan for at least five years. All ash trees appear to be susceptible to it. It has recently been discovered in northeast Indiana as well.

Evidence of infestation includes D-shaped exit holes on branches and the trunk. Callus tissue produced by the tree in response to larval feeding may cause vertical splits 5–10 cm in length to occur in the bark above the gallery. Distinct, frass-filled larval tunnels etch the outer sapwood and phloem of the trunk and branches. An elliptical area of discolored sapwood, likely a result of secondary infection by fungal pathogens, sometimes surrounds larval feeding galleries in live trees. Infested branches in the canopy die when they are girdled by the serpentine tunnels excavated by feeding larvae. Many trees appear to lose about 30 to 50 percent of the canopy in one year and the tree is often killed after 2–3 years of infestation. Frequently a profusion of epicormic shoots arises at the margin of live and dead tissue on the trunk. When trees die, dense root sprouting occurs. Emerald ash borer killed trees of various sizes and condition in Michigan. Larvae successfully developed on trees as small as 5 cm in diameter, but pole-sized and sawtimber-sized trees were also killed. Stress likely contributes to vulnerability of ash trees and recent summer droughts may have contributed to high emerald ash borer populations in southeastern Michigan. However, emerald ash borer attacked and killed apparently vigorous trees in woodlots and urban trees under regular irrigation and fertilization regimes.

Please see the DNR's webpage for more information.

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/pestinfo/ashborer.htm>

Or call the Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology at 317-232-4120.

Ohio River Conservancy
1020 N Indiana
Bloomington, IN 47408-
8193

Southeastern IN:
Oak Heritage Conser-
vancy
PO Box 335
Hanover, IN 47243

East Central Indiana:
Redtail Conservancy
959 W CR 500S
Muncie, IN 47302

Whitewater Valley
Land Trust
4910 Shoemaker Road
Centerville, IN 47330

West Central Indiana:
NICHES
PO Box 2790
West Lafayette, IN
47906-2790

Statewide:
The Nature Conservancy
1505 N. Delaware
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Rare Plant Highlights of 2003

2003 was another successful year for rare plant discoveries that included one new state record, a rediscovery of a species previously listed as extirpated, new records for a species far from its original known range in Indiana, and several other new site records for state threatened and endangered plants.

Beginning in northwest Indiana at Wolf Lake, Lake County, Liz McCloskey of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service discovered a new site for the state threatened silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*) in July. This rare plant is restricted in Indiana to the counties bordering Lake Michigan. A month earlier in adjacent Porter County, Tom Post, Regional Ecologist with the Division of Nature Preserves (DNP) found a population of the state endangered beach peavine (*Lathyrus maritimus* var. *glaber*) in Dunes Nature Preserve, Indiana Dunes State Park. Also in Porter County, biologist Jim Bess discovered smaller forget-me-not (*Myosotis laxa*) in a fen complex along Salt Creek at Imagination Glen Park. Also in June, Tom Post and Dr. Paul Rothrock, a botanist at Taylor University found the state threatened slender cottongrass (*Eriophorum gracile*) at Camp Red Mill in LaPorte County in a small seep spring run.

Farther south in east-central Indiana's Jay County, Dr. Rothrock uncovered several plants of timid sedge (*Carex timida*), state endangered, in a woods at White Oak Cemetery in May. Consistent with its namesake timid sedge is apparently very rare, but closely resembles the common *Carex jamesii* and represents a relatively new split from the latter species.

DNP ecologists, Mike Homoya and Cliff Chapman made significant finds in southeastern Indiana with the discovery of Schreber's aster (*Aster schreberi*) at Falling Timbers Nature Preserve in Versailles State Park, Ripley County. This marks only the second known station in Indiana for this species, the other site being in Clark County. In adjacent Jennings County, they also found Maryland meadow-beauty (*Rhexia mariana* var. *mariana*) to be common along a road adjacent to Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge. It was growing with common meadow-beauty (*Rhexia virginica*) for a nice comparison. Mike also found a new state record in July when he discovered axilflower (*Mecardonia acuminata*), a southern species in the figwort (Scrophulariaceae) family at Prairie Creek Sand Barrens Nature Preserve in Daviess County.

Bill Thomas of New Albany made several important discoveries in southern Indiana beginning with the state endangered fern, black-stem spleenwort (*Asplenium resiliens*) at Harrison-Crawford State Forest in January. Then in April he located the state endangered variety of

Natural Area News is published by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves. All questions, comments, or requests should be mailed to the Division of Nature Preserves at 402 W. Washington St., Rm W267, Indianapolis, IN 46204. We can be reached by calling 317-232-8059, or faxing to 317-233-0133.

Nature Preserves is looking for articles to include in Natural Area News. If you or your group would like to submit any news or information relating to natural areas and their protection, please send it to the Division of Nature Preserves, attention Ron Hellmich.

Nature Preserves: Identifying, protecting and managing an array of nature preserves to maintain viable examples of all of Indiana's natural communities for the benefit of the natural communities, their representative species, and future generations.

Have you noticed?

Are you interested in learning more about Indiana's native plants? The Division of Nature Preserves staff have been writing regular short feature articles on Indiana's native plants in *Outdoor Indiana*, the DNR's magazine. These articles, which began with the May/June 1996 issue, highlight a particular species or group of plants. Look under the Plant Feature section of the magazine for these articles.

Outdoor Indiana frequently carries other articles of interest to natural area enthusiasts.

To subscribe, send a \$12 payment, and your name and address to *Outdoor Indiana*, 402 W. Washington St. W255B, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2742. For more information, call 317-233-2347. Or go to OutdoorIndiana.IN.gov

Would you like to contribute to Natural Area News? Just send your story, article, or poem to Ron Hellmich, Division of Nature Preserves, 402 W. Washington St., Rm W267, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2742. Please include a phone number so we can contact you if we have questions.

Rare Plant Highlights

wild chervil (*Chaerophyllum procumbens* var. *shortii*) at Splinter Ridge Fish and Wildlife Area, Jefferson County. Bill also turned up a total of three sites in Harrison and Jefferson for the state endangered goose-foot corn-salad (*Valerianella chenopodiifolia*), a species that was previously recorded in Indiana from only the northwestern sector. As surprising as this might seem, it should be noted that this species does in fact occur in neighboring southwestern Ohio. Bill also located a small population of the state endangered blunt-leaved spurge (*Euphorbia obtusata*) in Clark County in May, while Howell Curtis of Scottsburg uncovered two new sites for this species, one in Clark State Forest, Clark County and the other in Scott County. Finally, in September Bill made yet another significant discovery when he located a population of *Chamaesyce serpens* [*Euphorbia serpens*], the matted broomspurge in Switzerland County. This species was previously believed state extirpated and had not been recorded in Indiana since 1925.

Cliff Chapman, Cory Rieman and Bill Wilcox of the DNP turned up two sites for the state threatened royal catchfly (*Silene regia*) in Washington County, where the species had not been reported in more than 160 years. Most other Indiana locations for this plant are in the west-central section.

The DNP's Natural Heritage Data Center is grateful to the field botanists who contribute to this report. We look forward to another great growing season in 2004 and hope it is filled with many new and exciting plant discoveries.

Roger Hedge
Heritage Ecologist

Dr Damian Schmelz Honored

At the 2003 Annual Meeting of the Indiana Academy of Science, Dr. Robert Waltz had the honor of awarding Dr. Damian Schmelz the Indiana Academy of Science Special Service Award for Damian's outstanding service to the Academy over a thirty year period. He served as President of the Academy in 1974, was recognized as a Fellow of the Academy in 1973, and has served on numerous committees and projects on behalf of the Academy the most notable of which is his service as the Academy's Appointee to the DNR Commission. He has co-authored or been a significant contributing author for at least two seminal texts on Indiana's Natural Areas and was involved with early efforts to establish the Division of Nature Preserves along with Bill Barnes and others. He maintains an active interest in Indiana's old growth forests and special sites in all aspects.

Land Protection Opportunities

Goose Pond Project

Goose Pond is a glacial basin near Linton in Greene County that was once an expansive, thriving wetland. Today, efforts are underway to restore the area's more than 7000 acres of wildlife splendor and provide free public access.

In 2000, the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service purchased permanent easement from the current landowner and began restoration of the wetland and wildlife habitat on the property. The restoration will enhance the habitat needed for shorebirds and other waterfowl and waders as they migrate annually to and from their summer nesting grounds. Goose Pond also provides nesting habitat for grassland and wetland birds.

The current owner is interested in selling Goose Pond for public use, but the property may be divided up and put on the auction block. This is a rare opportunity to provide protection and public access to such a huge expanse of natural wetlands.

A consortium of conservation organizations and local, state and federal agencies is contributing resources to purchase the property for public access. Working with these partnerships, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is attempting to acquire the property for use as a premier public birding and hunting area.

The DNR recently established the Goose Pond Trust to accept donations to buy and turn this land into a publicly owned natural area. One hundred percent of all contributions will go toward acquiring Goose Pond. Please send Goose Pond donations to:

Natural Resources Foundation - Goose Pond Trust
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St., Room W256
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Large Tract of Forestland Acquisition

About 1,500 acres of upland forest near Paragon will be protected as a state forest and recreation area, Gov. Joe Kernan and the Indianapolis Power and Light Company announced recently.

"Morgan County is a rapidly developing area with a very bright future. It is important to preserve wildlife habitat and greenspace for public recreation as communities grow," Kernan said. "State forestry and wildlife officials identified the most important part of the forest land that was to be included in the auction, and IPL agreed to sell this land to the state," Kernan said. "This is great news for Morgan County, IPL and all Hoosiers who value nature."

The land being purchased by the state is a mature, upland forest located east of Burkhart Creek and north of Indiana 67. It is bordered on the north and east by privately owned forestland. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources will manage the land as part of Morgan-Monroe State Forest. The property will be enjoyed by wildlife watchers, birders, hikers and hunters.

Remembering Jane

The Indiana environmental community lost a prominent figure with the sudden death of Jane Dustin on November 28, 2003. Her environmental activism touched on many issues including clean water, clean air, green space, land use, natural area protection, and wilderness. Several organizations benefited greatly from her activism, including the Fort Wayne chapter of the Izaak Walton League, the Hoosier Environmental Council, and Acres, Inc.

I got to know Jane during the 1970's when I lived in Fort Wayne and was active on the board of directors of Acres. Jane was their secretary for many years. Although it often seemed like Jane "was" Acres, it really wasn't so. There were many capable people involved with the organization, but her influence was obvious and impressive. Back in those days, she may well have been the glue that held things together. If nothing else, she was a catalyst who energized others to do better. Without doubt, Acres was a much better organization because of her.

Where Jane became a personality to a greater audience of folks was at public meetings where issues with environmental concerns were on the agenda for debate or vote. It was here that her feisty style drew attention and made friends or enemies depending on which side of the issue you sat. Opinionated and vocal, one seldom needed to wonder where she stood on an issue. With the glare of an eagle, she would unleash her commentary. I always thought Jane seemed uncomfortable behind the podium speaking her mind. There was obvious nervousness in her voice, yet there was no mistaking her passion. She was a willing and convenient mouthpiece, and others were happy to oblige her gutsy commitment.

I didn't always agree with her positions on issues, often thinking she was too rigid and unwilling to compromise. But she made us take pause and examine our values, made us think, and sometimes maybe even made us change our minds. And, in spite of all her huff and puff, she also had a softer side. I found her to be a warm, friendly, compassionate person.

I last saw Jane on November 18, 2003 when she and Tom came to the Natural Resources Commission meeting where we celebrated the dedication of our 200th nature preserve. Prior to that, I hadn't seen her in two or three years. I had called Jane some weeks before the Commission meeting and suggested that she and Tom come since they had been actively involved with the legislative process that resulted in the creation of the Division of Nature Preserves in 1967. She warmly expressed her delight in being asked to come, but said they would not plan to be there since they weren't getting around very well these days. They came anyway. At the time, it really meant a lot to me. And then, ten days later she was gone. It means so much more to me now.

During the Commission meeting, our guests were given the opportunity to say a few things. During Jane's comments, she said "I am a lousy secretary, but I served as a secretary for Acres for almost 35 years and on their board for 40. But the important thing is that even though I am a bad secretary, I assisted." That pretty well sums up Jane Dustin -- she got involved. Our skies are brighter, our streams are cleaner, and more natural areas will remain natural because of it. Thank you, Jane, for getting involved and enriching our lives.

Lee Casebere

Natural Area News

Division of Nature Preserves
402 W Washington St Rm W267
Indianapolis IN 46204

Announcements

2004 Nature Preserve Directories

The new 2004 Nature Preserve Directories are available now! These directories highlight some of the most significant natural places in Indiana and include descriptions of the nature preserves and maps and directions to these places. Please contact the DNR Map Sales office toll free at 1-877-463-6367 to get your copy. There will be a \$10 charge (plus \$2 postage) to help cover the cost of printing and producing the directories.

Wish List

Color copier

Pentium 4 class computer

Please contact Ronald Hellmich, 317-232-8059, if you are able to assist.

